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ADDRESS OF WELCOME

TO

The Southern Surgical and Gynecological Society,

DELIVERED AT WASHINGTON,

BY SAMUEL C. BUSEY, M. D.

NOVEMBER 12, 1895.

A compilation of data relating to the eleemosynary, religious,
and scientific foundations in the City of Washington,
and realty of the Government in the
District of Columbia.

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ADDRESS OF WELCOME,

BY SAMUEL C. BUSEY, M. D.

DELIVERED NOVEMBER 12, 1895.

Mr. President and Members of the Southern Surgical and Gynecological Association :

Through the partiality of the distinguished chairman of your Committee of Arrangements, I am here to offer the fraternal greetings of the medical profession of the District of Columbia to you at this first meeting of your association north of the river Potomac. This invasion is the expression of that friendship and comity which makes kindred of us all, and is significant only in that it is a voluntary reunion upon common territory of the citizens of a common country, who are engaged in a common pursuit, characterized by the spirit of Christian benevolence and philanthropy.

In one aspect we are your guests, invited, by your presence here, to participate in the consideration of the subjects set forth in the programme, and to co-operate with you in promoting the advancement of a science which has for its highest aims the amelioration of suffering and the saving and prolongation of human life.

I need not then tell you of the pleasure it gives me to bid you welcome to this city of the nation, which I have seen grow from its village appointments to the proportions and grandeur of the nation's metropolis, but I must

give expression to the cordiality and fraternity which my juniors in the practice of medicine in this city have bidden me to offer you on this their first and only opportunity to congratulate this association on its success and achievements in the recent past.

The population of this city is largely cosmopolitan, and more closely representative of the population of the country at large than that of any other city, and those of you who come from the tropical regions of the South, as well as those from the border States along the course of the historical line of Mason and Dixon, will find here the representative types of congenial manhood and responsive hospitality from every section of the national domain, mingling and commingling in one homogeneous community, irrespective of local and State nativities and provincial customs and characteristics, and engaged on equal terms in all the relations and pursuits of business, employment and social life. There are, of course, cliques, coteries, clans, social circles, exclusive factions, gangs and cabals of good and evil import, but not banded by State and local affinities. But the truth of history compels me to add that its representative character would be incomplete without such slums as Swampoodle, Murder Bay, Hell's Bottom, and Hooker's Division,—localities where vice and crime, in all their loathsome hideousness, found domicile and protection, but which are now rapidly disappearing before the energy, thrift, and progress of a cosmopolitan and law-abiding population.

In a population of two hundred and seventy thousand there are one hundred and eighty churches; one hundred and three public school buildings, with an attendance of forty-four thousand pupils; four universities in successful operation, two more in course of establishment, and another in contemplation; five medical and four law

schools, with annually increasing numbers of matriculates; five general and two special hospitals, with accommodation for seven hundred patients; two foundling hospitals, one emergency hospital, and one for incurables, several public dispensaries, one deaf and dumb asylum, and one insane asylum. There are seventy well-established charitable and reformatory institutions providing for the care of the indigent, helpless, sick, injured, and wayward, of which thirty-five do not receive any public aid, but have been founded and are supported by the munificence of philanthropic citizens and residents of the Federal territory. There is not one gambling house "known to the authorities," but there are five hundred and eighty licensed saloons,—far too many in a population so abundantly supplied with eleemosynary, religious, and educational institutions, which in some measure is due to inadequate legislation by Congress. Thus, notwithstanding our dependence upon a legislature without representation, the citizens and private property-holders of the Federal territory exhibit most remarkable and creditable progress in all those qualities and instrumentalities of enlightened and Christian civilization which contribute so much to the well-being of the human race and have made this the foremost nation on the globe.

You must excuse the interpolation, in this connection, of the statement that in this District the death-rate has gradually diminished in the past fifteen years, and the average longevity of decedents has increased. Among the whites four years nine months and nineteen days, having risen from thirty-two years and three days in 1881 to thirty-six years nine months and nineteen days in 1895; and among the colored from twenty years ten months and eleven days in 1881 to twenty-five years eight months and twenty-seven days in 1895. These fig-

ures exemplify the maxim of Prof. Pierce, that "virtue, like intellect, doubtless tends to longevity." If time permitted, I might, with equal precision, show that this population is characterized by three elements of strength of a people—"longevity, fecundity, and vigor."

In another aspect you are our guests, and, in behalf of the profession and of the community at large, I welcome you to the only city in this great and populous country wherein each one of you can claim and enjoy the privileges and immunities vested in common citizenship, in so much as each one and all of you, in some measure, hold, in common with the many millions of citizens, proprietary rights and sovereign power. That you may more fully estimate and appreciate the magnitude of such prerogatives, let me tell you that in the area of 69,245 square miles covering the territory of the District of Columbia the Government owns four thousand two hundred and twenty acres of land, exclusive of the streets, avenues, and alleys of the city, and property in this city valued at \$201,711,959, being \$10,294,155 in excess of the value of private property. To this valuation must be added the value of the Government lands lying outside of the limits of the city, which comprise three thousand four hundred and twenty acres, which, with the improvements thereon, are estimated at the low valuation of eight and one-half millions of dollars. The aggregate of the Government realty in the District of Columbia, including the streets, avenues and alleys of the city, but not including the enormous tract of reclaimed Potomac river flats, or purchases since 1889, is seven thousand eight hundred and twenty-six acres of land.

NOTE.--Number of and area of Government parks and reservations under the control of the Chief of Engineers, U. S. A., June 30, 1894 :—
Total number of reservations, 201; acres, 405.08.

And now if you will go with me through these streets and avenues, you will see these properties represented in magnificent public buildings, decorated and improved

Reservations highly and partially improved, 133 ; acres, 356.39.

Reservations unimproved, 168 ; acres, 48.69.

President's Park.....	area, 82 acres and	9,683 sq. feet.
Washington Park	" 78 "	22,678 "
Smithsonian Park	" 58 "	1,260 "
Henry Park	" 14 "	37,830 "
Seaton Park	" 12 "	21,902 "
Seaton Park continued.....	" 6 "	19,440 "
Judiciary Square.....	" 19 "	35,712 "
Mount Vernon Park.....	" 2 "	27,673 "
Franklin Park	" 4 "	28,590 "
Lafayette Park.....	" 6 "	41,414 "
McPherson Park.....	" 1 "	29,216 "
Farragut Park.....	" 1 "	26,216 "
Rawlins Park	" 1 "	30,218 "
Lincoln Park.....	" 6 "	25,284 "
Stanton Park.....	" 3 "	2,145 "
Folger Park	" 1 "	39,654 "
Garfield Park.....	" 23 "	42,691 "
Marion Park.....	" 1 "	26,840 "
Washington Circle.....	" 1 "	36,865 "
Dupont Circle.....	" 1 "	2,722 "
Scott Circle.....	" "	7,854 "
Thomas Circle.....	" "	28,352 "
Iowa Circle.....	" 2 "	2,087 "
Garfield Circle.....	" "	6,361 "

To the above must be added the area of 277 triangle and trapezoid reservations, making in the aggregate 405.08 acres. The area of the streets and avenues in the city is 3,606 acres.

United States Suburban Property.

Reservoir near Georgetown.....	55.86 acres.
Receiving Reservoir.....	166.25 "
Naval Observatory.....	70. "
Battle Cemetery	1. "
Howard University Park.....	11. "
Smith's Spring.....	1. "
New Reservoir.....	40.74 "
U. S. Military Asylum.....	495. "
Columbia Institution for Deaf and Dumb.....	110. "
Reform School.....	266.84 "
St. Elizabeth Asylum.....	446. "
U. S. Navy Magazine.....	84.03 "
Rock Creek Park	1,515.27 "
Zoological Park.....	166.48 "
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Suburban property, total.....	3,420.15 "
Streets and avenues in city.....	3,606. "
Land in city of Washington.....	799.78 "
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Total Government land in D. C.	7,825.93 "

parks and reservations. But this great Government has not limited its possessions and expenditures in this District to the acquisition of realty, the construction of public buildings and improvement of parks, but has been a generous though inadequate contributor to the development and advancement of various branches of science, in the establishment and support of bureaux and departments of science, art, and literature, comprising Architecture ; Astronomy ; Astro-physies ; Animal Industry, including infectious diseases and pathology of animals, dairy investigations, and zoölogical and biochemic laboratories ; Agrostology ; Biology ; Botany ; Bibliography ; Climatology ; Forestry ; Education ; Entomology ; Ethnology ; Hydrography ; Hydrometry ; Hygiene ; Ichthyology ; International Exchanges ; Meteorology ; Mammalogy ; Museum ; Law ; Medicine ; Printing and Engraving ; Ornithology ; Ordnance ; Vegetable Pathology and Physiology ; Pomology ; Soils and Foods ; Weights and Measures ; Quarantine ; Bacteriology ; Pathology, and Zoölogy.

I cannot detain you with a statement in detail of the operations of these scientific foundations, not as yet complete in any department, but steadily progressing towards that standard of excellence and usefulness which will, in the near future, make the political home of the nation the centre of science, literature, and art. But I can assert that in learned and scientific institutions, bureaux, departments, and great national libraries, with their corps of experts in the various branches of science, this city offers opportunities not excelled in any city in this country.

And now, coming closer to that branch of science which most concerns you, I must remind you that the same spirit

It has not been possible to obtain this information from any one department or source, and the reports are so conflicting it is hardly possible to avoid mistakes.

This estimate does not include the Maltby, Butler, and new Post-Office buildings and grounds.

which has given impetus to new thought and to new and enlarged conceptions of scientific research has established in this city a medical library greater in number and value of volumes than any similar library in the world, and an anatomical and pathological museum unsurpassed in the variety of its collection. The publication of the index catalogue in connection with this magnificent library will contribute more toward the higher education of the medical profession than any single act of any nation on the face of the globe. Then, too, the Government has established a Museum of Hygiene, a National Quarantine, both important adjuncts of preventive medicine, which will continue to grow in usefulness to the Government and to the people at large.

These foundations have been developed under the fostering care of a munificent Government. It may be that it needed these establishments to fulfil its delegated functions, and is compelled to secure the services of skilled medical men to superintend their proper administration ; nevertheless, even admitting this necessity to be the primary cause for their foundation, it in no manner impairs their value to the profession, and the duty is imposed upon us to utilize them for the common good, and to widen the scope of such endowments to the end that we and the people may realize the full measure of their usefulness.

I solicit your aid and co-operation in our effort to secure the protection of our people from the horde of impostors and charlatans which you have driven from your borders by the enactment and enforcement of medical practice laws, and which has made the District of Columbia a common rendezvous where the most atrocious methods of the charlatan and mercenary impositions are openly and flagrantly committed to the wrong, injury, and robbery of its citizens. You represent the most influential and in-

telligent class of suffragists, for whose aid on the hustings and at the polls we plead.

To state the deplorable condition of this District fully and broadly, there are five medical schools and several medical societies chartered by acts of Congress, or under the general incorporation law, authorized and empowered to license persons to practice the art and science of medicine, without any uniform, and by some without any standard of qualification beyond the ability and willingness of the applicant to pay the required fees, or give promissory notes for such payment; and under the provisions of the general incorporation law any dozen of persons can obtain a charter, upon payment of the fee for recording the same, authorizing them as a body corporate to confer the degree of M. D. at their pleasure and will. Such is the status of this Federal territory, which is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the highest tribunal of legislation in the land, made up of the Representatives and Senators from forty-one States and Territories, which have enacted medical practice laws for the protection and welfare of their citizens. Take these facts home with you and re-echo them throughout the length and breadth of the land, that such criminal neglect, not less disgraceful and scandalous than the slums of vice, may not continue to afflict the citizens of the Federal territory.

Pardon, in conclusion, the invocation of one who has nearly completed a half century of service in the practice of medicine, to assert the highest prerogatives of the science of medicine, and by unity of effort enforce them in the interest of and for the welfare of mankind, in that governors, legislative bodies, town councils, and all others in authority may come to know in the near future that in preventive and remedial medicine truth and science must dominate whim, caprice, charlatanism, and mercenary adventure.

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